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THE WORLD'S STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION.

Australia — Canada — China — Denmark — Finland — France Germany — Great Britain and Ireland — Holland — India and Ceylon — Italy — Japan and Korea — New Zealand — Norway Russia — South Africa — Sweden — Switzerland — United States of America.

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Official Organ: *The Student World.*

The Federation unites the Student Christian Movements of the countries mentioned above; it is also in close touch with kindred Movements in the following countries: Argentina, Asia Minor, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Esthonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Uruguay, Jugo-Slavia. Several of these Movements have already applied for admission to the Federation.

HISTORY OF THE FEDERATION

The Federation is an international organisation founded in 1895. In that year there met in Wadstena, Sweden, the leaders of national Movements which had grown up independently of each other in the United States of America, Canada, Great Britain, Germany and the Scandinavian countries. At this conference were laid the foundations of the Federation. In 1920, after twenty five years, the Federation represented 19 national Movements and exerted an influence in more than 35 countries; it included Student Christian Associations in 2,500 universities and colleges and had an approximate membership of 200,000 students and professors.

AIM OF THE FEDERATION

a) To unite students who wish to follow Jesus Christ as Saviour and Master. To bring together those who wish, in an atmosphere of liberty and mutual respect, to study the Bible, that they may find the source ot the power and life of which they have need.

b) To prepare students for various forms of social and religious work for the extension of the Kingdom of God.

c) To seek to improve the moral and social conditions of student life.

d) To foster friendly relations between students of all nations and to work for international goodwill by

endeavouring to apply the teaching of Christ to international relationships.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

The Federation is Christian.

The Federation is open to all. It recognises as belonging to it, all who identify themselves with its spirit. It does not enquire: „Where do you come from? To what Church do you belong?"

At the same time the Federation respects church loyalties and never tries to alienate its members from the Christian Communion to which they belong. The Federation is interconfessional in that its membership includes devout adherents of all Christian Confessions (Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Coptic, etc.) The Federation is extra-confessional in that it has no organic connection with any Church or ecclesiastical organisation.

The supremacy and universality of Christ and His Work is what the Federation proclaims and emphasises.

The Federation is international.

The Federation while respecting the autonomy of National Movements, at the same time seeks to encourage intercourse between them and to foster a sense of interdependence and mutual responsibility. The experience of a quarter of a century has shown the

special importance of the smaller countries and the great contribution which their Movements have to make to the work of the whole.

The Federation, on the one hand, requires the National Movements to be in full harmony with its principles and aims; on the other, the Federation respects the individuality of the National Movements and believes in their development under their own national Committees, holding that the life of the whole is enriched by the distinctive character of each part, by original methods and special experience born of national temperament and race genius. The Federation, therefore, exercises no tyrannical authority but seeks rather to arouse interest, to advise and to encourage. It aims to serve, not to govern.

The General Committee of the Federation is composed of representatives from all the affiliated Movements. The Executive Committee has members from at least ten different countries. To-day, the President is American, the Vice-Presidents are Chinese and Japanese, the Treasurer is Dutch and the Secretaries are British, Swiss, French, American and Canadian. Germany and India are also represented amongst the members of the Executive Committee.

The World conferences of the Federation and the Meetings of the General Committee have usually taken

place every two years in different parts of the globe; in the past they have been held in Sweden, America, Germany, France, Denmark, Holland, Japan, Great Britain, Constantinople and Switzerland. The 1922 Conferenz will be held at Peking in China.

METHODS OF WORK AND SERVICE.

The Federation is proving a potent force for unity; it reveals to the student the brotherhood of the human race.

In a University, the Christian Association brings together students of different faculties and parties and combats isolation whether of the individual or of the group.

The local Associations have through the work of secretaries and through annual conferences opportunity to come into contact with students of different universities or of different races inhabiting the same country: for instance, in Finland, there are Swedish and Finnish students amongst our members; in Switzerland, French and German speaking students; in South Africa, Dutch and English students; in Asia Minor, Greek, Armenian and Turkish students. In London, New York, Paris and Zürich it is no uncommon thing to find representatives of thirty nationalities and more working harmoniously in the same Association. Finally in the World Conferences of the Federation, students and

professors from every quarter of the globe learn to understand and appreciate one another.

The Federation helps to improve the material and moral conditions of student life.

Through its international organisation the Federation can help students of any nationality studying abroad. In receptions and smaller gatherings the foreign student is given the opportunity of meeting people and of making friends.

Institutions of various kinds for students (Hostels, clubs, restaurants, reading rooms, student clinics, employment and lodging bureaus, etc.) help to improve material conditions and are at the service of the whole student community.

The high moral ideal of the Federation and its influence in forming the character of students is more and more widely recognised. To-day the work of the Federation is welcomed by University authorities in many countries: great progress has been made in this respect, particularly in the Far East.

In view of the great need in Central Europe and in the Near East, members of the Federation the world over, have united in Relief Work for students in these regions and have expressed their friendship and good-will by meeting the desperate need of their fellow students for food, clothing, housing, books, etc.

The Federation answers the religious needs of students and leads them to faith in Jesus Christ.

Confronted by complete confusion in the world of thought, the modern conscience is driven to face fundamentals anew. Students, no longer satisfied by explanations based on authority, are seeking, often in bitterness of spirit, for the solution of their religious difficulties.

The Federation helps them in their search, not by presenting systems or dogmas, but by bringing them face to face with the personality of Jesus Christ. This it does through conferences, through lectures followed by free discussions, and through Bible Study groups which are open to any student who is honestly seeking for the truth.

The Federation prepares its members for a life of service.

The National Movements do not limit their work to meeting the moral and spiritual needs of individual students; they all aim at uniting students in service. The Federation endeavours to prepare students to take their share in the task of hastening the Coming of the Kingdom of God on earth.

Students form study groups for the purpose of discussing various social and missionary questions. They unite theory and practice by personally under-

taking many forms of social service, such as Settlements, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and other such Movements.

Churches and missionary societies, religious and social organisations, look to the Federation for new and young leadership.

In preparing students for a life of service, the Federation reveals undreamt-of-possibilities to them and gives them the opportunity of realising their highest aspirations.